

Answers You Would Love to Know!

Who were Adam and Eve?

CCORDING to the Bible, God created the world with all its plants and animals. In the end, He made a man and a woman and asked them to live in the Garden of Eden that was in the Paradise. This first man is called Adam and the first woman in called Eve.

A serpent, most cunning as it was, tempted Eve to eat the fruit that God had forbidden them to eat. So, she plucked one and ate it up sharing it with Adam. When God came to know of it. He was very angry. He cursed the three - the serpent. Adam and Eve - and turned them out of Paradise. Since then, they are living on the earth and suffering their respective curses. We, human-beings are the descendants of Adam and Eve.

God's curses had their effect as under :

1. The serpents crawl on their bellies all their lives. 2. Men (Adam's sons) toil hard for livelihood day and

- 3. Women (Eve's daughters) suffer the pangs of bearing

What is a Unicorn?

unicorn is also an imaginary animal mentioned in Roman and Greek myths. It is said to look like a horse and has a long spiral horn at its forehead. Its hind legs are like those of a deer and its tail like that of a lion. Its body is mostly white with blue eyes and a red head. The horn is white at the base, black in the middle but red towards the tip.

The unicorn is a symbol of purity and sacredness. In the religious texts, it is often associated with holy people like Virgin Mary.

It is believed that someone saw a desert antelope deer) in Africa from a distance. It is called an oryx. This big antelope looked to have one big spiralling horn though setually it had two. Thus the idea of the unicorn took birth and became popular in due course of time.

What are Griffin and Phoenix?

HE griffin is an imaginary creature with the head and wings of an eagle and the rest of the body of a lion. Its ears are curiously long. People of the past in Rome and Greece believed the griffin to be the guardian of gold and hidden wealth. Many stories are popular about this creature in these lands.

The phoenix is an imaginary bird about the size of an eagle with brightly coloured plumes. This bird finds mention in ancient Greek and Egyptian books. It is believed to have no mate and so it lays no eggs.

The phoenix is believed to live a life of 500 years. Then it would make a nest of spices and sit on it waiting for the sun-rays to set the nest on fire. Soon it would be burnt to ashes. But from the ashes would come out a worm to turn into a new phoenix to live for another 500 years. This creature is a symbol of rebirth.

What is a Mermaid? . 10

mermaid is am imaginary being believed to live in the sea. The upper half of a mermaid's body is said L to be that of a woman. But the lower half is that of a fish with scales and a tail.

It is also believed that mermaids are very fond of singing as also they have magic powers. Sailors who happened to be drowned in the sea were believed to be killed by mermaids after luring them with their sweet songs. Thus people considered the mermaids to be very dangerous.

There are also stories wherein men brought mermaids in their control after stealing their combs or mirrors or hankies. They forced the mermaids to marry them and live with them on land.

It seems that some seaman saw a sea-cow from a distance when it was suckling its young-one and mistook it for a mermaid. And then the idea of mermaids came to be popular.

What is a Nymph?

nymph is a lesser goddess believed to live in heaven to serve those who enter heaven after death. Th-A ey can bewitch anyone by their enthralling beauty. In Indian literature, Urvashi, Rambha and Menaka are popular nymphs. These nymphs may come to the earth as spirits to roam in the natural surroundings. According to Greek and Roman books, nymphs were extra-

ordinarily beautiful young girls who roamed the countryside and lured the village youth to live with

Ancient Greek and Roman stories mention three kinds of nymphs — tree-nymphs (dryads), water-nymphs (naiads) and hill nymphs (oreads). Each kind stood for a particular kind of beauty and mischief. Islamic books also mention nymphs (hoors) in the paradise to serve the virtuous there.

What is a Muse?

Muse is a goddess that it associated with and inspires a branch of learning. In all, there are nine Muses. They are all believed to be daughters of Zeus. king of the Greek gods and counterpart of Indian god -Brihaspati. Both the gods stand for learning. The nine Muses are as under:

. Urania 2. Terpsichore 3. Melpomene

4. Erato

5. Euterpe Clio 7. Thalia 8. Calliope -- goddess of astronomy -- goddess of dance

-- goddess of tragedy -- goddess of music and love poetry

 goddess of lyric poetry -- goddess of history

-- goddess of comedy

-- goddess of epic poetry -- goddess of sacred songs

9. Polyhymnia

by Kazi Khaled Arafat

Divinity By The Dozen

HE arachnids that feed me Are anarchies that weed me Stinking flowers don't need me My own thoughts don't read me.

Ecdysis of the arthropod Your own soul is your own sod With a self-titled irreproachable god You can't see peas from outside the pod.

Creator of holy gold-plated mud Bleed so we can see your blood Canonized with consecrated crud Nip freedom's forbidden fruit at the bud.

The Last Day At Home

FTER my mother di-

A ed, life for me and my father was always sad

rather lonely. (My younger

sisters Shila and Raya were

only three and four years

old). In Chittagong, it seemed

that every memory of my

mother unveiled a long

forgotten despair in us. I

tried much in Chittagong to

forget her but it was impos-

In Dhaka the first few

years after my mother's death

was terrible for me, because

that time it seemed to me

that my only friend and she

was gone. In Chittagong

things changed after I met

Sabrina. She was the most

cheerful girl in the whole

ninth grade, but somehow it

seemed to me that my father

his time in clubs, he never

really spent time to think

what he was doing. Also most

of the time when I sought an

opportunity to talk to him he

was either drunk or in a bad

tell him anything. One day I

found him inviting Aunt

Marcy, our most cruel aunt,

who was always ready to do

anything she wanted, to our

house to look after us. The

first days of her stays went

rather neatly but the next few

days it was ... terrible. To say

about Aunt Marcy she is the

worst character of a woman.

She has terrible temper and

it seemed that it was impos-

sible for us to stay under one

of vegetarian who eats beef

on Fridays. Also she was a

tendency of sticking her nose

in other peoples business.

But my father who called

himself a good judge of char-

acter said that she was a good

lady who took her time off

suddenly I saw that my fa-

ther for the first time in our

stay in Chittagong was not

taking out a wine bottle in his

temper." I said teasingly.

"Ah! is my dad in a good

HAKING a cow-tail whi-

sk, priest apprentice

Tatavi Heduvou bends

low to start his daily ritual at

a voodoo healing hospital in

Seko, near Togo's capital of

Lome. Goudjo Heduvou, kee-

per of the hospital's shrine of

Gabara, grasps Tatavi's hand_

as he sways into a trance. To-

gether, they call upon Gabara

- the cigarette-smoking, gin

drinking, perfume-scented

goddess of love — to cure a

The hospital, is famed

among traditional Ewe in

southern Togo and south-

eastern Ghana, for its cures

of everything from leprosy to

voodoo was a Haitian inven-

tion. In fact, the religion was

first called voodoo in West

Africa and bears many names

in the Americas : vodou in

Haiti, candomble in Brazil.

and obeah in Jamaica. The

word "voodoo" originated

with the Fon people, relatives

of the Ewe, and means

forces to govern their world

and their very lives. Most of

West Africa's 2.5 million

often misunderstood religion.

To learn more about this

Hundreds of worshippers

Ewe are devout believers.

one must go to Kokuzan.

Followers rely on unseen

Initially many thought

heartbroken woman.

paralysis

"spirit"

It was a fine day when

Aunt Marcy is a weird sort

roof together.

taking care of us.

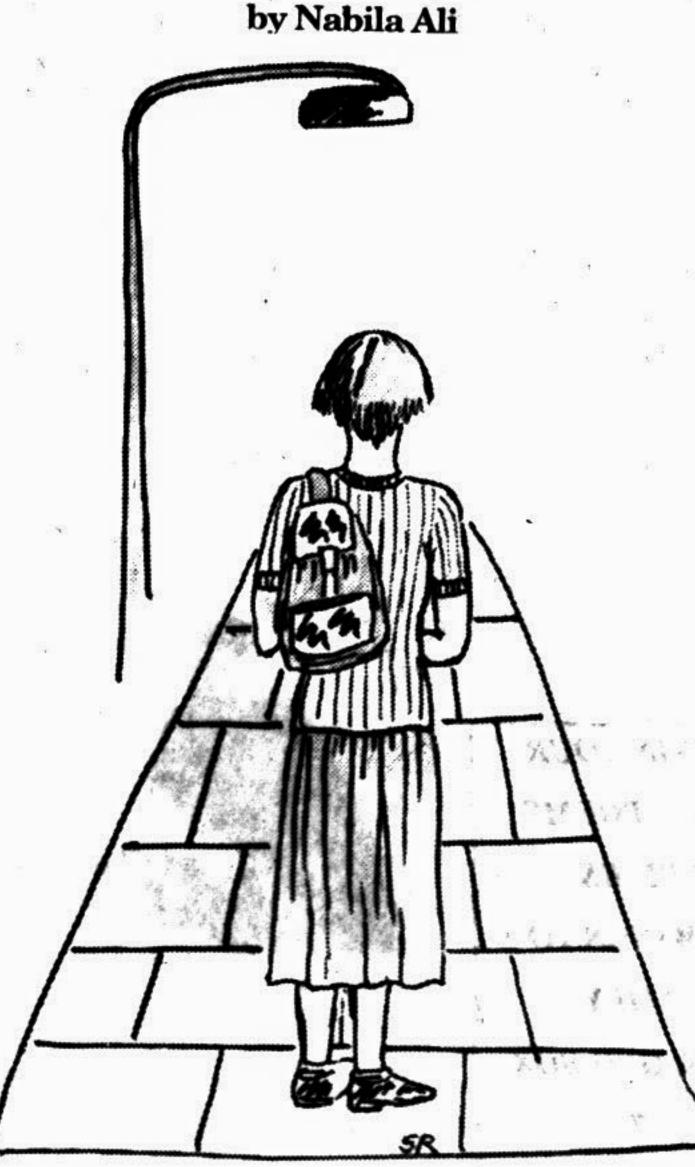
hands.

It was always terrible to

mood.

All night he would spend

was still lonely and forlorn.



The African Roots

of Voodoo

"Moris"! I heard my aunt say."... that is not the way to speak to your father.

Well ... I... er am ... so.. rry " I said trying my best to look ashamed . "Well it is about time you are ... your dad and I planned a good boarding school." she said. "Your childish attitude.. is " she paused . She caught my firing eyes at

"Aunt Marcy!" I exclaimed. "All you ever did was look at my mistakes and you never saw that my father was

drunk... "I stopped knowing that I was spoiling mine and Aunt Marcy and my father's

temper. "I decided to do something... about my drinking habit Moris" said my father suddenly rising." Also I took a good advice from your aunt of marrying good nurse Sadia. She is a young spinster who is looking for a good man without a wife and family with kids and she chose me." he said.

The shock hit me harder

felt that a I and my father were close. "You see honey you are

than I thought and I always

..... adopted and all the time it was your mother who wanted your father to keep you." Aunt Marcy said looking out of the window. "There were no chance of your mother having a baby but after the girls were born your father well" she paused also marking her words for not hurting me. My father continued and said well .: . I thought of not having you around and now ... your mother died and ... " he paused and said nothing everyone in the room was expecting me to say something or cry.

I did cry but said nothing and also knowing that my father doesn't want me around in case I become a burden to his new wife.

It was all planned that afternoon. I was being sent away to Dhaka to a boarding school and I realized that my father vanted me to argue with hin and he wanted to show a logic for sending me away but I didn't say a word after that day. I realized that Aunt Marcy came here all the way from Dhaka only to persuade me for going to a bearding school.

Tresday came too quickly for me to realize because for the past three days I spent my time crying and thinking what sort of a man my father is and little realizing that it was obvious for him to sent The awa, in case his new wife does rut want to keep me.

That day I finally asked my dad about my real parents and as usual he puffed through his pipes and sat on the chair and said quietly that a poor woman who took shelter in our house and gave birth to me and died the same night.

As I left the house I saw my sisters playing on the veranda not realizing much but asking where was I going? When the car started ! looked at my father and saw tears in his eyes, I did not

needed. Faith is enough.

Believer, heated hand

wrought knives in crackling

flames, then another man

brought one of the knives to

his tongue after several repe-

titions, his tongue had not

plained Doavu Hayibor Atsivi,

the chief priest presiding

over Kokuzan. "They direct

our actions and tell us which

medicines to take so no harm

followers, a mixture of water,

seeds, and ground nuts is be-

lieved to give protection

against evil spirits into old

age. To reinforce the concoc-

tion's effect, Kokuzan partic-

ipants follow the deities'

command: Do not have sex or

eat goat meat for two weeks

before the celebration, and

Courtesy National Geographic

Text and Photograph

come with a clean heart.

Aug. 1995

Taken early in life by all

"The gods protect us," ex-

even reddened.

can come to us."

Quiz Club

E have an announcement to make! Since the revival of the Quiz Club, we have been receiving increasing number of replies around the country. However, due to delays in the mailing service, many of your answers do not meet the deadline, and some even reach well after the answers have been printed. So from now on, we have decided to publish the Quiz Club fortnightly. This will allow you to have a week to crack the quizzes (the DEADLINE : Your envelope should bear the postmark of the next Thursday date, following the publication of Quiz Club) and leave enough time to reach us before the answers are printed.

But don't let the notice upset you! Because, each quiz club will contain 20 questions and so, you will have on average, the usual 10 quizzes to crack in a week! Moreover, more attractive prizes will be awarded to the winners. So hurry up and send your answers postmarked no later than

Thursday 1st February 1996. Who is the writer of the book, 'The Odyssey'? 'Pickwick Papers' was first published in — Century. On 1933, why was Georgi Dimitrov, The Bulgarian

Political leader arrested in Berlin? The Libyan Leader Muamar Al Qaddafi came to power

What is the full from of CV? VHS stands for..... The League of Nations established in....... In which city the organisation, OPEC, was founded?

Insulin regulates.....

In Anatomy, Iris is found between..... 11. What is the capital of the Nation, Gabon? State language of Malaysia is...... 13. What is the area (approximately) of Sweden? Who won the Golden Globe Best Actress Award? Bangladesh will receive — crore Japanese debt relief.

16. Recently, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia addressed to the nation on — January. 17. What is the current Unemployment rate in USA? 18. This year's Trade Fair will be held in the city.....

19. An MI-17 helicopter was shotdown by — over the Northern Jafna Peninsula, Srilanka. 20. Here in Rajshahi, JCD leader was arrested on........

Answers: Libvan Dinner International Business Machine Joseph Conrad. Egypt Jefferson Davis Malcom Rifkind San Salvador Diode

Beta

WE here at the Rising Stars have decided to do special, whole page coverage on Wildlife in general but giving particular emphasis on the endangered species of our Animal Kingdom. For this exclusive wildlife special, Rising Stars' valuable members and readers are requested to send in typed articles written either by themselves or compiled from any recent publication along with photographs of the animal, to the Daily Star office by January 31, 1996. Please type your name, address, telephone number (if any) and send us your entries as early as possible. For the best entry we have an interesting prize! Good - RS Editor.

Competition

An Opportunity Across the Board!

ITH The advent of winter, each year, thousands of migrating birds, commonly known as 'Otithi Pakhi', make their way in flocks to the Tropic of Cancer to seek refuge from the harsh cold of Siberia or other cold parts of the world. Once they arrive here, they become an integral part of the food chain, eating up a significant number of insects and thus, keeping our eco-system clean. But shots of the rifle make their lives miserable, moreover

small boys are seen selling these birds at corners of the streets. The hope to live longer brings the birds here, and we, the humanbeings, claiming to be the civilized of all, are snatching away their desperate lives.

Imagine yourself to be a migrating bird and write a story of about 500 words, talking about a winter that you will never forget'. Alternatively, to participate in this competition, you may

paint or sketch to show a scene of landscape with birds migrating or a scene depicting the cruelty of man on these birds. However the participants of this competition must be students of class I to class If you are selected as one of the winners of the competition, you

will be awarded an attractive prize plus your story/painting/sketch will be printed on this weekly supplement. So hurry up and send your piece by Wednesday, 31 January 1995 at our office. Good luck!

Your Comments EAR Avid Readers! We are delighted to inform you that

The Daily Star's weekly supplement the Rising Stars for readers between the ages 6 to 16 has stepped into its fifth year. You might have noticed that, over these years the pages has they have gone through a process of modification. As usual, we welcome your valuable comments, suggestions and novel ideas in order to shape up the supplement, the way you expect it to be. At the same time please let us know how you want to see our other supplement page, Teens and Twenties for young adults, 16 to 29 years of age, and help us to make it better for you. Our address of Correspondence; The Editor, The Rising Stars,

Clo The Daily Star, Rd #3, House #11, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh. — Thank You — RS Editor

Living

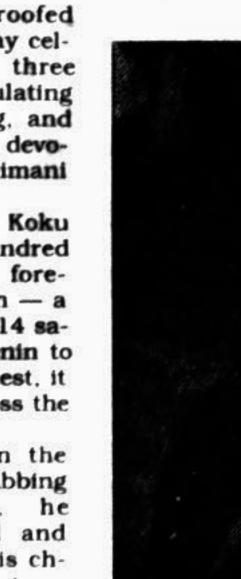
Susmita Roy

Not you who live in mansions. With showcases and springy beds. We are simple souls Born never to be you.

Our hands are rough and skin is coarse. We speak with no eloquence; But then of course, our voice is rather hourse We have to sweat while you perspire; You may think — why compare? But where's the difference, tell me here....

Red boots cover you from knee to toe Brown earth for us will always do. You may have a TV and a fridge But doesn't nature give us more than these?

You might feel sorry For we work hard for bread, But it's the labour that we never dread. You are who nothing can ever satisfy, Three meals a day and a happy life Are all that we need till we die!



A man teetering on the est. Four men in turn

Even more mystified are things when four men drew knives from the calabash fetish and point them at a chicken held atop a boy's head Within seconds, the bird collapsed, snatching a few shivering breaths before dying. When the chicken was cooked in a calabash, the flammable gourd did not catch fire.

How do you explain these? We can't. Yet for voodoo followers, explanations aren't

left their thatch-roofed homes for the seven-day celebration, held every three years in May. In undulating dance, rapturous song, and animal blood offerings, devotees paid homage to Flimani Koku, the healing god. Worship of Flimani Koku

began about one hundred years ago when Ewe forebears brought his fetish — a large calabash holding 14 sacred knives — from Benin to Aflao. Guarded by a priest, it was now displayed across the

edge of possession, grabbing a wooden mortar, he dropped to the sand and braced the vessel on his chslammed a pestle into the container. He sprang up. flung the mortar aside, and danced away unharmed.

